

# Eukaryon

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## Oh, the Places Eukaryon Alumni Will Go...

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## Oh, the Places *Eukaryon* Alumni Will Go...

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*"You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you will say, 'I don't choose to go there.' With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, you're too smart to go down a not-so-good street."* – Dr. Seuss

As more and more active members of *Eukaryon* graduate and begin their lives outside of Lake Forest, it becomes apparent that being in *Eukaryon* affected each of their paths and has given them various streets to follow. The benefits of being an active member of *Eukaryon* can be seen in almost all of the stories of *Eukaryon*'s alumni. It can either be miniscule yet pertinent, as seen in alumnae such as Katrina Brandis '06 and Alina Spivak'08, or imperative to the career path of *Eukaryon* alumni, as is the case in both Michelle Mckinzey '06 and Jessica Price's '06 career paths. The one common thread that they all share is that *Eukaryon* gave them skills that they needed to succeed after graduation and made sure that they were able to go down the path that was right for them.

*Eukaryon* began as a way in which undergraduate students could present their work, and when Dr. DebBurman approached Katrina Brandis to be part of the executive board of *Eukaryon*, a new journal that he was launching, she jumped at the opportunity to become the first editor-in-chief of *Eukaryon*. Katrina recognized the unique opportunity that was presented to her: looking back upon the offer, Katrina said, "I don't think there are many, if any, other undergraduate journals that are produced and edited by undergraduates, themselves". Katrina recognized the opportunities that *Eukaryon* could offer her and decided that she wanted to be a part of such a great organization.

Katrina entered college knowing that she was interested in scientific research, and after working in Dr. DebBurman's lab for four years, she knew that she wanted

to pursue a career in research. Katrina is currently in her fourth year of the Molecular Cell Biology PhD program at Washington University in St. Louis, where she is working on a project dealing with the improper trafficking of cholesterol. According to Katrina, her experience with *Eukaryon* provided her with the proper knowledge on how to write scientifically, a skill needed for publishing one's research. By learning how to edit other students' writing in *Eukaryon*, Katrina was able to understand what would be expected of her own writing when she was ready to publish her research.

Although a majority of incoming pre-medical students change their minds within the first two years of college, Alina Spivak was one of the students that came into college knowing that she wanted to go to medical school.



Alina Spivak'08

Similar to Katrina, when Alina was presented with the opportunity to join *Eukaryon*, she recognized the unique opportunity and decided to take it. One of the most important lessons that Alina took from *Eukaryon* was that no matter where her career takes her, she "will always be a scientist first and a medical doctor second."

Alina is now in her third year of medical school at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. It is Alina's belief that one of the crucial elements that got her to where she is now, aside from her hard work, is the support and guidance that she received from her professors at Lake Forest and the time management abilities that she gained from being in *Eukaryon*. She believes that the mentorship that a student can receive from their professors at an intimate school, such as Lake Forest, was key to her success at the graduate school level. Furthermore, learning how to manage one's time is a truly undervalued skill that she was able to pick up from *Eukaryon* and utilize in medical school.

Michelle Mckinzey is one of the many students that originally came into college wanting to go to medical school but eventually changed her mind. Interestingly, being an active member of *Eukaryon* was one of the driving forces that caused Michelle to make that life altering decision. After serving on the review board of *Eukaryon*, Michelle found that



Katrina Brandis'06

**Michelle McKinzy'06**

she was very interested in science writing, and rather than pursuing a career in medicine, she suddenly became interested in a career in science writing.

After taking a year off from graduate school for journalism at the University of Iowa, Michelle is currently reapplying to graduate programs that focus on business and technical writing. Michelle is also currently working on a memoir that deals with her mother's struggle with Hepatitis C, and it is her personal belief that being a member of *Eukaryon* has helped her with this endeavor. Currently, one of Michelle's ultimate goals is to eventually own her own science magazine, a goal which *Eukaryon* influenced strongly.

Similar to Michelle, being an active member of *Eukaryon* can be seen through Jessica Price's career path. Jessica came to college knowing that she shared an interest in both biology and writing, so when the opportunity to combine those two passions appeared through the launching of *Eukaryon* she jumped at the chance to become the first copy-editing chair. Jessica's work as the copy editing-chair later helped her land her first job as a Science Writer in the Department of Chemistry for the University of Chicago. This job required a large amount of experience in writing and editing and a strong background in the sciences. Unlike most undergraduate students, Jessica had met both those requirements, and a job that would normally be given to someone at a graduate level was given to her. Jessica explained that "the simple fact that research labs at big, high-profile universities like the University of Chicago are looking for science writers speaks volumes about the importance of writing to science."

Jessica spent two years at the University of Chicago before entering a program for MS in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She believes that working for *Eukaryon* helped her gain acceptance into her graduate program and land a competitive fellowship: the Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Jessica is currently working on projecting the outcome of various management decisions of the health of forests and how they function.

**Jessica Price'06**

While the paths that all of these *Eukaryon* alumnus are traveling down differ, a common thread that they all share is that being an active member of *Eukaryon* helped each graduate in one way or another. *Eukaryon* teaches each of its members something important about him or herself. In a way, *Eukaryon* gives its members the brains to fill their heads, the shoes to fill their feet, and the ability to establish a prosperous and fitting future once they leave the "forest."

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